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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 17 April 1969

25X1 1. [ ] JMM) Called on Senator Stuart Symington in connection with his interest in figures on the Agency budget. See Memo for Record.

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25X1 2. [ ] - JMM) Accompanied Mr. [ ] who briefed Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee, on the [ ] incident. The Senator's main concern focused on the scope and value of reconnaissance operations like the [ ]. The facts regarding the current incident were explained, and it was made clear to the Senator that the Agency was in no way involved in the conduct of the operation.

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25X1 3. [ ] - JMM) Accompanied General Cushman who appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee. All comments were favorable. Transcript available in OLC.

25X1 4. [ ] - JMM) In the absence of Senator Milton Young, I briefed his Administrative Assistant Mr. Chris Sylvester on some current developments which he could pass on to the Senator. Included were:

- a. Soviet activity in the Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- b. Indications of upcoming ChiCom nuclear tests;
- c. Current North Korean military posture.

25X1 5. [ ] - JMM) Ken BeLieu, Deputy Assistant to the President for Congressional Relations, called this afternoon to say he still had been unable to get hold of Bryce Harlow regarding the question of whether or not we brief Senator Gaylord Nelson (see Journal of 16 April). I said we were trying to find out Senator Russell's views in the matter, and BeLieu said he would like very much to know the results.

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25X1 15. [ ] GLC) In response to his request of yesterday, I contacted Arnold Bruston, on the staff of Senator Gaylord Nelson (D., Wis.), regarding a possible briefing of the Senator on the Soviet and Chinese Communist threats. I advised Mr. Bruston that this was a sensitive and complicated matter on which we kept our Subcommittees completely informed and, in view of the possibility of numerous congressional inquiries for briefings, suggested that Senator Nelson discuss this with Senator Stennis. (See Memo for the Record for details.)

25X1 16. [ ] - GLC) Talked with Bill Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, regarding our handling of the request from Senator Nelson's office for a briefing of the Senator on the Russian and ChiCom threats. Woodruff had some thoughts on the subject and said he felt the Director would be in an untenable position if he refused to give Senator Nelson a briefing. (See Memo for the Record.)

25X1 17. [ ] JMM) On the Director's instructions, I called Ken BeLieu, Deputy Assistant to the President for Congressional Relations, to explain our problem in trying to turn down Senator Nelson's request for a briefing by the Director on the Soviet and ChiCom threats. BeLieu said that last week he had raised our problem of briefing Senator Cooper with Bryce Harlow, Assistant to the President for Congressional Relations, who had felt we could not avoid briefing senators, but should exclude members of their staffs. However, BeLieu said he agreed with us we should try to avoid briefing Nelson in this case, but he wanted to check it out with Harlow before giving an official answer. He said he would call back tomorrow morning.

I told BeLieu of the status of the problem with S. 782 (Ervin bill) pointing out that Ervin had never responded to our request for an appearance in executive session. I said in view of this we should now proceed to contact members of the Ervin Subcommittee and a few others and explain our position. BeLieu concurred and we agreed that among those we should contact were Senators Eastland, McClellan, Hruska, Thurmond, Robert Byrd, Bayh and Hollings. BeLieu did not give any clear indication of just what the White House planned to do in the matter.

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